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added. He remarks, "This part of the historian's work must depend largely upon genius and genius cannot be taught."

Professor Fling believes that serious pieces of historical writing should be intended primarily for the perusal of scholars, and that the author should, therefore, quote liberally from the sources and should indicate in notes the documents upon which each detail depends. He has in mind apparently even such details as the particular hour at which an important session of an assembly opened. Is this not carrying fidelity to method too far? Must we not assume that trained historical investigators know how to find out such facts? The instance Professor Fling cites of an erroneous statement by so distinguished an historian as M. Flammermont proves simply that historians occasionally "fall asleep at the switch". Of course, if the detail is controversial, evidence for the conclusion should be cited. The author recognizes the fact that there must be histories for the general reader, and that they need not include critical apparatus, although they should be based upon scholarly investigation either by the authors or by those upon whose works they depend. He adds that "the ideal condition would be to have the scientific and the popular histories written by the same men".

This book should arouse college teachers to the need of early directing promising students toward systematic preparation for the later and more serious tasks of historical research. The severity with which Professor Fling condemns defective and superficial processes will have a stimulating effect also upon those who are face to face with the practical problems of research courses.

HENRY E. BOURNE.

Coal, Iron, and War: a Study in Industrialism Past and Future. By EDWIN C. ECKEL. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1920. Pp. 375. \$3.00.)

WE have become so familiar with the facts of impending depletion of our extractive resources that there would be little novelty in a study that concerned itself merely with the general danger of exhaustion of mineral resources. This study of coal and iron, however, is much more than a jeremiad on the subject of conservation. The dependence of our present industrial system upon extractive enterprise is frankly and fully explained; little encouragement is held out of significant substitutions of less predatory methods of obtaining power, so that there is no attempt at superficial evasion of the fundamental question, What is to be done? The answer is explicit: slower rates of growth in mass of population and in the basic industries; actual decline in production before many decades; greater diffusion of industry leading to notable economies in the use of power for transportation; serious changes in the balance of political power and forbidding antagonisms between different political ideals.

This study will not afford much encouragement to those idealists who were disposed to believe that modern civilization tends naturally towards world peace. Again and again strong emphasis is laid upon the inherent instability of industrial prestige and leadership.

In the end, then [says Mr. Eckel in his last paragraph], we come back to the fact that there are very serious material difficulties in the way of future peace. These difficulties are of natural origin, being ultimately dependent upon the unequal distribution of important natural resources. They may act directly, as in the case of the coal of Westphalia and China, the iron of Lorraine, the oil of the Caspian and Caribbean—all of which may serve as immediate causes of war or as the bases for that competition which is in the end more crushing and deadly than war. Or they may act through their effects upon political development, so as to create the possibility of international conflicts (p. 370).

The thesis is carefully developed and well maintained, although the historical chapters fail to present the antithesis between the machine civilization based on minerals and the earlier industrial order based upon agricultural resources. The contrast would have placed the conclusions of the book in still stronger relief, but such an undertaking would doubtless have seemed out of place to the average reader. Suffice it to say, a more sumptuous historical setting would merely confirm the thesis of the work.

This brief setting-forth of the essential idea might arouse a suspicion that we are dealing here with a crude instance of materialistic determinism, but there is no trace of such superficiality. The relation of physical resources to inventive effort is stated with unusual felicity, and the striking feature of the book is the openness of mind with which the future is examined. The underlying assumption of all discussion is that things will not remain as they are: technical processes will be different, rates of growth of population will be different, requirements will be different. The reader already familiar with the general tenor of these modes of analyzing industrial problems will find much that is stimulating, and any who may have failed to come in contact with such principles of interpretation will find in this book an especially fine presentation of a body of doctrine that is certain to captivate the imagination.

Although the historical portions of the book are sound in the main there are some statements with reference to the eighteenth century that can scarcely be accepted. The advances in the textile industries during the industrial revolution (p. 12) were not merely effects of the revolution. Iron was not a basic industry in the eighteenth century (pp. 21, 187). Consideration of the relative importance of the textile and metal industries would affect the implications of the statement (p. 20) that the colonies were producing as much iron as Great Britain about 1740. Elaborate treatment of these historical questions, however, would undoubtedly strengthen the conclusions of the text. These slips do not in any way affect the validity of the doctrines presented.

ABBOTT PAYSON USHER.